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Attorney Docket: 381TO/41670C4
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: TAKASHI MUKAIHIRA ET AL.

Serial No.: 10/032,102 Group Art Unit: 3748

Filed: DECEMBER 31, 2001 Examiner: B. TRAN

Title: SYSTEM FOR DIAGNOSING DETERIORATION OF
CATALYST

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

JAN 10 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding foreign Search Report citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement under 37 CFR §1.97(e). No fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p) is required.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(e)

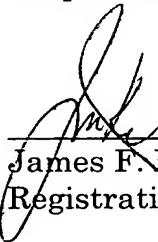
I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

If necessary, the paper should be considered as a petition for consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR §1.97(d)(2) and that the petition fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(i) in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(d)(3) should be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381TO/41670C4).

Respectfully submitted,

January 9, 2003



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